

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Terryence Chapman on August 27, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, line 24: The phrase, "a first retainer for thrust bearing" has been changed to --a first retainer--.

Claim 1, line 26: The phrase, "a second retainer for thrust bearing" has been changed to --a second retainer--.

Claim 1, line 29: The phrase, "third retainer portions for radial bearing" has been changed to --third and fourth retainer portions--.

Claim 1, line 30: The phrase, "and the second retainer in" has been changed to --and the second retainer, respectively, in--.

Claim 1, line 32: The phrase, "this race" has been changed to --the third annular race--.

Claim 2, line 3: The phrase, "on which the" has been changed to --on which a--.

Claim 2, line 6: The phrase, "the second receiving surface" has been changed to --a second receiving surface--.

Claim 2, line 9: The phrase, "on which the" has been changed to --on which a--.

Claim 4, line 5: The phrase, "a distal end surface of the third retainer" has been changed to -- a distal end surface of the fourth retainer--.

Claim 5, line 4: The phrase, "and the third retainer portion formed on the second retainer" has been changed to -- and the fourth retainer portion formed on the second retainer--.

Claim 5, line 5: The phrase, "and between these" has been changed to --and between the third and fourth retainer--.

Claim 7, line 24: The phrase, "a first retainer for thrust bearing" has been changed to --a first retainer--.

Claim 7, line 26: The phrase, "a second retainer for thrust bearing" has been changed to --a second retainer--.

Claim 7, line 29: The phrase, "third retainer portions for radial bearing" has been changed to --third and fourth retainer portions--.

Claim 7, line 30: The phrase, "and the second retainer in" has been changed to --and the second retainer, respectively, in--.

Claim 7, line 32: The phrase, "this race" has been changed to --the third annular race--.

Claim 8, line 3: The phrase, "on which the" has been changed to --on which a--.

Claim 8, line 6: The phrase, "the second receiving surface" has been changed to --a second receiving surface--.

Claim 8, line 9: The phrase, "on which the" has been changed to --on which a--.

Claim 10, line 5: The phrase, "a distal end surface of the third retainer" has been changed to -- a distal end surface of the fourth retainer--.

Claim 11, line 4: The phrase, "and the third retainer portion formed on the second retainer" has been changed to -- and the fourth retainer portion formed on the second retainer--.

Claim 11, line 5: The phrase, "and between these" has been changed to --and between the third and fourth retainer--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach or render obvious the claimed combination of claims 1 and 7. The prior art discloses composite roll bearings including first, second and third rolling objects, and a retainer which supports the first second and third rolling objects (see US Patent 1,523,531), however does not disclose a first retainer and a second retainer with third and fourth retainer portions extending from the ends of the first and second retainers in the third annular race, or a race with a groove shaped cross-section. The prior art also discloses roll bearings which include first second and third rolling objects, a first race ring, a second race ring with a groove shaped cross section, but does not disclose or

render obvious first and second retainers with third and fourth retainer portions (see US Patent 3,304,137).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN KRAUSE whose telephone number is (571)272-3012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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